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CENTRAL PACIFIC  
CONFERENCE

# NEWS

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## ASSEMBLY CALLS CHURCHES TO COMMUNITY NEEDS



"Every community has its share of problems and of people with problems. Every church needs several goals which reflect the particular needs in its community. Local community mission can be coordinated with the concerns of the church in Conference and National settings." (The Reverend Ted Erickson, Board for Homeland Ministries)

"Let me suggest what church people could and should do. You need to be compassionate and understanding and do not automatically assume that a poor person is a bad person or that a person who is not working has a permanent case of indolence and sloth. Do try to find out what is going on. You can volunteer....There is no end to all the things you can do." (Mr. Keith Putman, Adult and Family Services, State of Oregon)

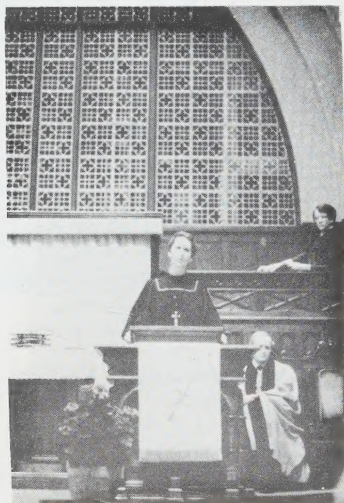
"At the Table we have two roles and we need to remember both of them. First, we are called by Jesus, our Host, to come as guests...We are reminded that God does not accept excuses, any postponement. We are challenged to examine our response to the gospel to see if it is open and ready or selfish and ingrown...We are not only guests at the Table, as members of Christ's Church, we are also some of those servants who kept going out to find folk to bring to the Banquet....We must do some careful outreach. We must ask the poor and the socially despised to come and sit at the Table..." (The Reverend Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund, Pacific School of Religion)

Such were the challenges set before the 153 delegates from 45 Conference churches attending the Nineteenth Annual Assembly of the Conference at First Congregational Church, Portland, May 29-31. Some 600 persons, including members of the Massed Adult Choir and Children's Choir, attended the Sunday Morning Celebration of Corporate Worship at which time Dr. Zikmund preached and Conference Minister Don Severson installed the new Conference officers, among whom were the new Moderator, the Reverend Richard Osburn, Forest Grove; Robert Senseney, Parkrose, Vice-Moderator; Donna Parsons, Cedar Hills, Secretary; and William Jackson, Beaverton, Treasurer. In addition, members of Conference Departments and Committees were installed.

In addition to electing new Conference officers in the Assembly Business Sessions, delegates debated and passed a number of Resolutions. Included among them were a resolution reaffirming Assembly opposition to the resumption of chemical weapons production; a resolution suggesting compensation guidelines for local church pastors; a resolution supporting the establishment of a covenant in support of theological education in the Western region; a resolution petitioning the Congress to stop all military aid to El Salvador; a resolution calling for the Conference to provide study materials to Central America to local congregations; a resolution on limiting the arms race; a resolution commemorating the Haystack Prayer Meeting of 1806. Copies of these resolutions will be transmitted to local congregations.

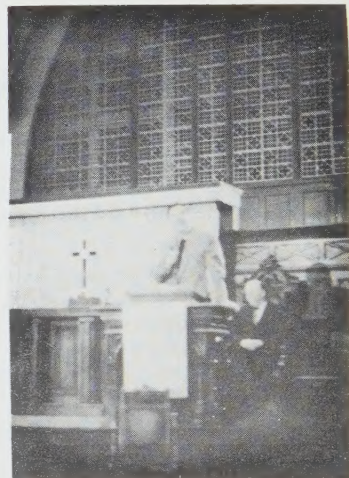
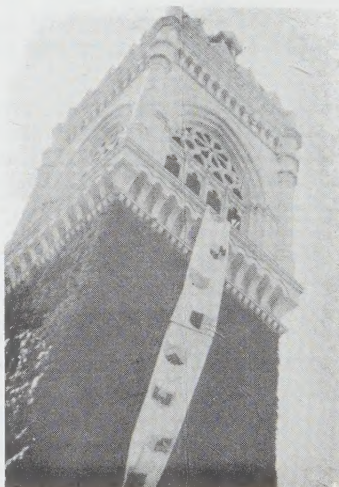


# ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS



Preacher of the day, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund, calls upon delegates to go out and invite people to the banquet.

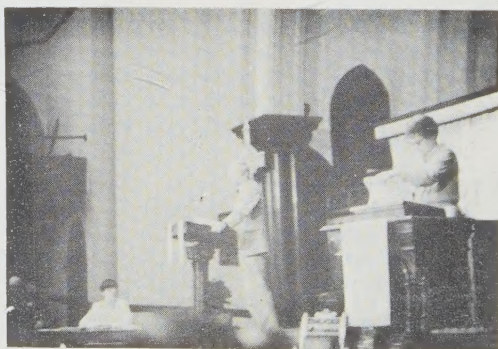
Portland First hung out the welcome banner to the musical accompaniment of the Vancouver Brass Ensemble.



New Conference Moderator, The Reverend Richard Osburn, Senior Pastor of Forest Grove, UCC, introduces Keith Putman who addressed the Assembly on Crisis in Human Services.



Among the musical group singing at the Assembly, the Children's Choir from Highland United Church of Christ were very much appreciated.



Conference Minister Don Severson and out-going Moderator Sylvia Love in Assembly Business Session.



## The Local Scene

The members of the Congregational Church of Lincoln City celebrate the completion of Phase I of their building project on June 21. In addition to the building, the congregation has installed new carpeting throughout the building and new landscaping surrounding the building. Pastor Jim Jones, in a letter to the congregation, wrote: "We have a beautiful building and we must continue to show God that we appreciate his faith in us by continuing to work toward new goals." Congratulations to Lincoln City!

St. John's United Church of Christ, Tillamook, has called Jerilee Foster as Christian Education Director. A teacher in the public schools of Kelso and Longview, Jerilee is returning home to accept this new challenge.

In other news from Tillamook, Earnie Lidell reports that his daughter Ruth will be touring with the Continental Singers, an interdenominational group, across this country as well as Greece and Israel. Ruth is a Senior at Willamette University.

First Congregational Church, Salem has called Mrs. Wanda Dunn to be Christian Education Director and Director of Youth Programs. A veteran of 26 years of Christian Education experience, Mrs. Dunn has written and directed plays, taught adult courses and been involved in a wide variety of volunteer activities. Mrs. Dunn begins her work on September 1.

Zion United Church of Christ, Gresham, has called The Reverend Louis Miller to be their Minister. He began his ministry on June 1. Lou, wife Paula and son Jonathan moved to Gresham from McCall where Lou had served as Minister.

Community Congregational Church, McCall, has called The Reverend Bill Edelen as Minister. Bill began his pastorate on July 5. Bill and his wife Jerry come to the Central Pacific Conference from the Michigan Conference following an interim position in Tacoma.

The Lake Oswego United Church of Christ has called Ms. Kay Harding as Associate Minister. Kay is no stranger to the Conference, having served as Intern Minister at First Congregational Church in Boise.

## CHURCH GROWTH PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

Fourteen of the eighteen Conference churches invited to participate in a year-long church growth effort have signed covenants and returned them to the Conference Office indicating their commitment to this pilot project. It is anticipated that the other four churches will also be returning their covenants. On September 25-26, representatives from each of the churches will gather at Camp Adams for a major church growth event with The Reverend Alan Johnson, Secretary for Evangelism for the Board for Homeland Ministries, and several other church growth specialists. Following the September event, the participating congregations will be convened again for one-day follow-up events at four-month intervals throughout the year.

This pilot project has been undertaken with the endorsement of the Executive Board of the Conference. A special task force of the Mission and Outreach Department, chaired by the Reverend Linda Mines Elliott, Meridian Church, is giving on-going leadership to the project.

## CENTRAL PACIFIC SENDS YOUTH DELEGATION

Four young people and three advisors traveled from Central Pacific Conference in June to participate in a Western Region Youth Planning Event in Northern California. They were there to participate in the planning process for next Summer's Western Region Youth Event. Representing the Youth Cabinet of the Conference were: Ruth Weston, Cedar Hills; Andrea Spuck, Parkrose; Kris Vercooter, The Dalles; and Mike Petty, Mtn. Home. They were accompanied by Mark Hardin, Corey Meador and the Reverend Doug Smyth.



The Reverend Dr. Yvonne Delk, Affirmative Action Officer of the United Church of Christ, has been elected Executive Director of the Office for Church in Society. She becomes the first woman to head a national program agency of the United Church of Christ.

## *The Last Word*

- Don Severson -

By the time you read this, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be history. Five delegates and two associate delegates from Central Pacific Conference will be among the eight hundred participants in that meeting, in Rochester, New York, from June 27 through July 1.

As I write this, however, I am completing preparations to leave for that Synod meeting, with the memory of our own Spring Assembly still warm and vivid. It was a great three days, and five great days lie ahead.

Meetings - Sometimes we complain because they occur so often, consume so much time and money, and seem to produce so little action. There is a suspicion of the "professional meeting-goer", who seems to measure time neither by the church year nor the ordinary calendar, but by a succession of assemblies.

We all know that there is strong Biblical warrant for meetings: "Where two or three are gathered in my name.....", the "tent of meeting", the "Synod of Jerusalem" in Acts 15, etc. We need also to remember the strong historical support for meetings: The Puritans, in particular, saw the true expression of the church as taking place when Christians gathered under the Headship of Christ.

It seems to me that we can approach church meetings -- local, conference, national -- with at least these four expectations:

1. We should expect meetings to force us to do our homework. There is a price to be paid for being part of a democratically governed church. Those who share in leadership have to pay it. You should see the pile of documents we have for Rochester!
2. We should expect to have our ideas and opinions challenged, and changed. Meetings press us out of our parochialisms into new perspectives. It's uncomfortable. Growth often is.

3. We should expect the Holy Spirit to be present among us, guiding, encouraging, reproving, surprising. One of the ways that this will be guaranteed is if all of you in our churches remember your representatives, and the meeting, in your prayers. And we shouldn't be surprised if the Spirit works through conflict as well as consensus.
4. We should expect to return with a deeper, more joyful sense of the rich, diverse, far-flung nature of our Christian fellowship. We are a particular family within God's whole human family. Like any family, we have a lot of unique individuals, we have fights, and we have deep bonds. Meetings strengthen the family.



Thanks for the privilege of representing you at our conference and denominational meetings. I enjoy it, but I take it seriously.

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